

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 CAB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-04

DRC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 H-01 /060 W

----- 126781

R 011255Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8977

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, SZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES TO FOREIGN
AIRLINES

REF: STATE 079306

1. THE SWISS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY PROVIDE ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUBSIDIES TO SWISS INTERNATIONAL AIR CARRIERS. ALTHOUGH AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL AND CANTONAL GOVERNMENTS HOLD APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT OF SWISSAIR STOCK, AND SWISSAIR IS MAJORITY STOCKHOLDER OF BALAIR (CHARTER OPERATOR), THESE CARRIERS DO NOT RECEIVE ANY SPECIAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN REQUIREMENT THAT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL USE SWISSAIR WHENEVER POSSIBLE. WHILE GOS DID GIVE SWISSAIR CONCESSIONAL LOAN IN 1949 FOR PURCHASE OF DC-6 AIRCRAFT, THE LOAN LONG SINCE REPAID AND SWISSAIR NOW COMPETES WITH U.S. CARRIERS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

2. DURING APRIL 21 DINNER WITH CAB CHAIRMAN TIMM ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR AND APRIL 22 LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY DCM, SWISSAIR PRESIDENT BALTENSWEILER MADE IT CLEAR THAT SWISS WERE VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO ANY GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES FOR AIRLINES. BALTENSWEILER EXPRESSED VIEW THAT

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GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TRY TO ASSURE MORE ECONOMIC NORTH

ATLANTIC RATE STRUCTURE AS MEANS OF IMPROVING PROFIT-
ABILITY OF COMPETING AIRLINES.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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